



U.S. Department of Justice

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NASHUA TAX EVADER AND DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Nashua Police Chief Donald Gross and IRS Special Agent-in-Charge Joseph Galosso announced the sentencing of **Francis G. Calaguiro**, age 43, of Nashua, New Hampshire, who pleaded guilty to seven counts of an eight count Superseding Information. The Superseding Information charged Calaguiro with four counts of Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine at Sharpshooter Billiards in Nashua, NH during October and November of 2000; one count for Establishing of Manufacturing Operations - using Sharpshooter Billiards as a location for possessing and distributing cocaine, and three counts of Filing a False Tax Return for the years 1998, 1999 and 2000. Chief Judge Paul Barbadoro of the U. S. District Court in Concord, sentenced Calguro to twelve months, six months in a federal correctional facility and six months of home confinement, in addition to three years of Supervised Release by the U.S. Probation Department.

This case was part of a joint task force investigation comprised of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations Division (IRS CID), the New Hampshire State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit (NHSP NIU), the Drug Enforcement Administration Mobile Enforcement Team, Boston (DEA MET), the New Hampshire State Attorney General's Drug Task Force, the Nashua Police Department, the Hampton Police Department and the New Hampshire State Police Laboratory. The investigation targeted, among other things, drug dealers working from food and drink establishments in both Nashua and Hampton Beach. The investigation involved extensive physical surveillance, undercover drug purchases inside the establishments, and the use of U. S. District Court authorized wire intercepts.

Consequently, the investigation exposed one of the most substantial and deeply rooted cocaine organizations in New Hampshire. This organization of local business people operated for over twenty years and had strong ties to national and local motorcycle gangs. The initial phase of the investigation resulted in the arrest of 20 defendants who were distributing and using cocaine in local bars in the Hampton Beach area during the summer season. When it was determined that Nashua-based dealers controlled the distribution to the Hampton Beach bars, wiretap intercepts were conducted on several of the telephones used by the cocaine dealers in Nashua.

The wire intercepts resulted in the interception and subsequent arrest and conviction at trial of one of the Massachusetts-based suppliers of the Nashua-based organization. Subsequently, a long-term grand jury investigation was initiated and approximately 20 documentary search warrants were executed. During the grand jury investigation, parallel civil forfeiture proceedings were also conducted. To date, in excess of a million dollars in assets have been seized or filed against as a result of the investigation. Several civil forfeiture cases named a number of the defendants' residences and their vehicles, including motorcycles, snowmobiles and a fishing vessel, as well as many investment accounts. Additionally, twenty (20) firearms were seized. In addition, several of the Nashua defendants have pleaded guilty to federal drug trafficking charges and have been sentenced. Another defendant has pleaded guilty to federal firearms charges and is pending sentence.

In the case involving civil forfeiture of Francis Calaguiro's assets, the United States obtained the first-ever civil Restraining Order under provisions of the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act (CAFRA) of 2000, based upon gambling and money laundering provisions. The Court required Calaguiro to operate his business, Sharpshooter's Pub, in Nashua, NH, a restaurant, lounge and billiards operation, under the tightly-controlled auspices of the U. S. Marshal's Service until the business could be sold. Calaguiro eventually sold the business at a price acceptable to the Government, and nearly \$75,000 of the sales proceeds was forfeited to the United States. The Government also forfeited Calaguiro's ski condo at Sunday River, Maine, a 1991 Chevrolet Corvette, a 1994 Jeep Cherokee and approximately \$33,000 in currency.

United States Attorney Colantuono stated: "This office and the other agencies will continue to vigorously prosecute criminal conduct which directly affects the quality of life in our communities. We will also continue to investigate and prosecute those who knowingly file false income tax returns."

Assistant U. S. Attorneys Clyde Garrigan, Mark A. Irish and Jean Weld prosecuted this case.